

Allamah Taba Tabai on SHAYTAN

Ali bin Ibrahim has been quoted by al-Kafi narrating about Imam Jafar Sadiq having said,

Jibril came to Adam when he had left Paradise and said,

O Adam, did not God create you with His very hands and did He not instill in you the special soul? Did He not ask the angels to prostrate before you? Did He not give you the hand of His chosen maid in Marriage and did He not permit you both to stay in Paradise allowing you to eat all that there was - but personally asked you not to eat or go near that particular tree - but you did eat and disobeyed God?

Adam answered, *O Jibril, Satan swore on God that he was my well wisher and I could never ever dream that someone could swear falsely in the name of God.*

Tafsir Qummi has quoted Imam Jafar Sadiq as saying,

- Satan said, O Lord You are never unjust so how will the rewards for my good deeds be obliterated?
- God answered, No for you will be granted your wish that you may desire on this earth.

The first desire of Satan was to live up to the Judgment Day and God said, "granted".

Satan's next wish was to have complete power over the sons of Adam and God said, " I grant you the power to overwhelm."

Satan asked that he be allowed to infiltrate the blood veins in mankind and God said, " I allow you to infiltrate."

- Satan said that he should be granted two children for every child born to mankind and that he may have the power to see mankind but not vice versa.
- And that he may take any form to manifest himself before them; God said, " Granted".
- Satan then asked God for further grants and God said, " I have let their hearts be your abode."
- Satan then said, *It is sufficient. By your glory I will lure them all away excepting those who are pious and sincere.*

The meaning of this tradition has been discussed earlier and Satan's words, " that I may take the form of any creation I please" means nothing more than that he can influence the thoughts of mankind. He can manifest himself in any form he pleases for the humans but he has no power to change his own form of existence.

Some scholars have concurred that Satan and his progeny are from amongst the Jinns and Jinns have a non-material existence. They can shape their appearance in any material form like dogs, etc. The angels too are non-material beings and can change their form of appearance but cannot appear as dogs and pigs. According to the scholars the existence of these two creations are specific and cannot be proven through intelligence. The concurrence of the scholars is no proof of their statement.

There is problem of numbers about the progeny of Satan though they have multiplied through his existence. How? Has he multiplied in the natural form that we humans do or does he resort to some other method? We do not have information hence we cannot be certain about his method of reproduction.

There are a few traditions that say that Satan copulates with his own soul, lays eggs, and hatches them or that his genital organ is between his two thighs just as in the humans and so they are able to copulate. He has ten children every day and they are males or they may be of both sexes whose intercourse produces further children. But these are conjectures that cannot be proven. There are some unconvincing traditions. There may be more information in the verse that are yet to be explained or deciphered but till date nothing so concrete has been explained and nothing is complimented by the verses of the Qur'an.

al-Kafi has recorded the words of Imam Jafar Sadiq as narrated by Ali bin Ibrahim, Ibn Abi Umair, and Hammad, that the Imam said,

Every heart has two sections out of which is one is for purity and piety and the other is for Satan and his allurements. He orders them to evil while the angel stops them from obeying (Satan). This is the meaning of God's words. Satan had said, " I will lure them from the right and from the left and from above and below and from in front and from the back."

Biharul-Anwar records a traditions of the Messenger in which he has said,

Surely the Satan flows freely with the blood in mankind.

Sahih Muslim records it this way,

The Messenger said, *Every man has a Jinn for companion*, so someone asked *what about you O Messenger?* and he answered, *And for me, but God helped me by making the Jinn a Muslim and he advises me nothing but goodness.*

Tafsir Ayyashi quotes Jameel bin Daraj narrating the words of Imam Jafar Sadiq when he was asked about Satan whether he was one among the angels or used to receive the orders from heaven, *He was not from among the angels but the angels considered him as one of their own. God knew that he was not from among them, nor does he get his orders from the heavens, nor did he attain any prominence.*

Then Tabari came and said that how come Satan was not from among the angels though God has said about the angels, *They all prostrated before Adam excepting Satan.*

Hazrat then recited the words of God *O you believers, believe!* and this was said when the Muminin were not present so the Imam asked, *Does this include the hypocrites who accept Islam superfluously?*

The tradition itself denies that Satan was from among the angels though he lived on the 5th heaven and was one its keepers. We should also remember that there are various accounts from both the Sunni and Shia sects about the powers of Satan. They are of two kinds.

One in which the powers and deeds of Satan have been explained and secondly some in which commentaries have been added.

In the first kind, we have the tradition from Hazrat Ali saying.

Do not keep meat cloth in the house because it is the center for Satan, and do not keep mud or filth behind doors. That is the refuge of Satan.

Usul Kafi has quoted Hazrat Ali as saying,

The cobwebs in your house are the abodes of Satan.

The Books further quotes him as saying,

Do not drink water while standing and do not dirty the drinking water with your saliva. Do not sit on graves nor stay alone in the house. Do not wear just one shoe and walk because in such conditions Satan comes very close to you.

Imam Jafar Sadiq has been quoted by the same book

Satan flees when you speak about God. If a person does not take the name of God before copulation then Satan inserts his own phallus too and both the person and Satan do the copulation, though the semen belongs to the man.

A tradition says,

He who sleeps intoxicated is akin to the wife of Satan and spends the night like her.

The Compiler's words:

Verse 90 of Surah Maidah clearly defines this subject by saying, *Intoxicants, gambling, divination by seeking a decision through arrows are an abomination of Satan's handiwork.*

In another instance recorded in al-Kafi Imam Baqir is reported to have said,

Surely anger is the oven of Satan that flares in the breasts of Adam's progeny.

The Holy Messenger is reported to have said,

Indeed Satan circulates in the blood of Adam's progeny, so restrict his passage with frugality and hunger.

In the book al Mahasin Imam Ridha has been recorded to quote Hazrat Ali,

His (Satan's) antimony is sleep, his powder is anger and taste is Lies.